

# BOOK REVIEWS

THE WESTERN JOURNAL OF MEDICINE does not review all books sent to it by the publishers. A list of new books received is carried in the Advertising Section.

**DIAGNOSTIC PARASITOLOGY—Clinical Laboratory Manual—**Lynne Shore Garcia, AB, MT(ASCP), Department of Pathology, Harbor General Hospital, Torrance, California; and Lawrence R. Ash, MA, PhD, Division of Epidemiology, School of Public Health, University of California, Los Angeles. The C. V. Mosby Company, Publishers, 3301 Washington Boulevard, St. Louis, MO (63103), 1975. 112 pages, 71 illustrations, \$7.50.

Diagnosis of parasitic infestations depends largely upon the ability of the laboratory to demonstrate the pathogens in properly collected specimens. Because most technologists have very little experience with parasitologic procedures, many patients go undiagnosed in spite of a series of costly repeated examinations.

This manual should be useful to laboratorians who are interested in improving their diagnostic abilities. The authors have compiled an outline of simple, practical procedures that can be performed in almost any microbiology laboratory. The entire text is filled with many useful hints, obviously gained from the authors' broad experience in diagnostic parasitology. The methods are described in a simple, step-by-step outline format which is well-organized and easy to follow. A series of charts outline the diagnostic features of most common parasites, providing a quick reference for identifying the parasite once it is found. Additional chapters deal with methods for culturing amoeba, preservation of specimens for teaching purposes and a list of serologic procedures that are available.

This little manual should be a valuable reference for technologists working in very primitive as well as extremely sophisticated parasitology laboratories. There is useful information for everyone with an interest in this area of medicine.

A. L. BARRY, PH D

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**A TEXTBOOK OF RADIOLOGY—Second Edition—**Edited by David Sutton, MD, FRCP, FFR, MCAR(Hon.), Director, Radiological Department, St. Mary's Hospital, London, Consultant Radiologist, Maida Vale Hospital, London, Teacher in Radiology, St. Mary's Hospital Medical School, University of London, and Institute of Neurology, University of London; Assisted by Ronald G. Grainger, MD, FRCP, DMRD, FFR, Consultant Radiologist to United Sheffield Hospitals, Consultant Radiologist in Charge, Northern General Hospital, Sheffield. Longman Inc., Churchill Livingstone-Medical Division, 72 Fifth Avenue, New York City (10011), 1975. 1,376 pages, \$79.50.

This massive (weighing almost eight pounds) single volume general radiology textbook makes a better attempt than many others available to give more than a brief overview of the many facets of general radiology today. It is divided into seven parts: bones and joints; the chest; the cardiovascular system; the gastrointestinal tract and abdomen; the urogenital tracts; ears, nose and throat, eyes, teeth, soft tissues, scanning; the central nervous system. These divisions each have at least two contributors. There are some useful appendices following the text: centers of ossification, contrast media, and vascular rings and anomalies of the aortic arch. The index is rather well organized and subjects are fairly easy to find. References and suggestions for further reading are, however, extremely limited when one considers the scope of the subject material. As suggested by the great weight of the book, one of its major drawbacks is its sheer size. While to some, carrying about such a heavy volume might be good exercise, the volume already in our department library and the volume available for

review are already showing signs of structural damage to the spine of the book. One would hope that the editor would opt for two volumes in the next edition as is already done in many radiology and non-radiology textbooks.

The quality of radiographic reproductions is somewhat spotty with probably fewer being suboptimal than satisfactory. One is struck by the excellence of the line drawings which are extremely helpful and are used throughout the book for illustration. Helpful also are the many tables which supplement the text such as those in differential diagnosis, chemical values and radiographic findings in various diseases. The text reads quite easily and, except for a few descriptive terms and phrases in common usage in Great Britain but not in the United States, the text is easily understood by any American reader.

The discussion about adverse reactions to contrast media (pp 876-878), I believe, deserves special criticism. Most urologists in this country would decry the use of premedication as described in this section. Some would even consider anxiety as possibly playing a role in reactions to contrast media, a viewpoint not even mentioned.

Several other deficiencies are obvious: (1) no discussion of abdominal ultrasound except as it is used in obstetrics and gynecology, (2) very brief discussion of pharmacangiography and no demonstration of its use in bleeding cases, (3) no discussion of radiologic lung biopsy techniques although a renal cyst aspiration is discussed briefly.

Despite the book's shortcomings and deficiencies, it apparently does fulfill its author's announced objective, that is, to provide a comprehensive single volume textbook for advanced trainees in radiology. I, for one, am less certain that accomplishing such an objective is possible.

ANTHONY G. PECK, MD

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**ATLAS OF ANATOMY OF THE HAND—**Johan M. F. Landsmeer, Professor of Anatomy and Embryology, University of Leiden. Churchill Livingstone Medical Division, Longman, Inc., 19 West 44th St., New York City (10036), 1976. 349 pages \$55.00.

Dr. Landsmeer, the author of this work, is a distinguished anatomist and ardent student of the anatomical refinements of the hand. This 349-page text documents his extensive anatomical research.

The book has, for the most part, a format of serial slides which are transverse and sagittal, with accompanying descriptive detail and analytical remarks. It would be extremely helpful to have many more labels for the innumerable photographs to identify structures discussed in the descriptive matter relating to them. Moreover, the language of the text is, in many parts, rather cumbersome and difficult to follow.

The *Atlas of Anatomy of the Hand* is a valuable reference for academic anatomists. Unfortunately, its method of presenting material is such that the work is not of practical value to average physicians diagnosing or treating disorders of hands. It is best suited to a reference library dealing with the hand.

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